

Application No. 10/587,793
Amendment Dated: April 9, 2008
Reply to Office Action of: January 9, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

No claims are added or canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 12 are amended. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The amendments to claims 4 and 8 are unrelated to the Office Action and are fully supported by the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2 as indefinite.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, "the surface of the drum", rather than "its surface".

In claim 2, applicant has replaced the term, "latter" with "heatable region", thus providing clarity as to which structure the recitation refers.

The Examiner rejected claim 9 because the terms, "the fluid layer", "the hydrostatic bearing liquid", "the heat transfer liquid" "its circulation" lack antecedent basis. Amended claim 9 now depends from claim 7, thus providing antecedent basis for the term, "the heat transfer liquid". "Hydrostatic bearing liquid" is deleted from the claim. Claim 9 is also amended to recite that a "fluid layer is provided..." Lastly, claim 9 now recites that the fluid layer is formed by the "circulation of heat transfer liquid", rather than "its circulation". Consequently, proper antecedent basis exists for all terms in claim 9 and claim 9 is not indefinite.

Claim 12 was rejected because the term, "the thin-walled drum" lacks antecedent basis and "thin" is an indefinite term. The term, "thin-walled" is deleted so that amended claim 12 recites, "the drum". Said amendment obviates both bases for rejection, as claim 1 provides proper antecedent basis for "the drum".

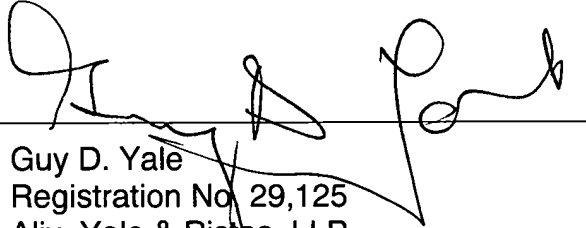
The remaining claims directly or indirectly depend from claim 1, and are therefore allowable.

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Having rewritten claims 1, 2, 9 and 12 to overcome the Examiner's rejections, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass the pending claims to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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